

HOUSE BILL NO. 389

INTRODUCED BY J. TAYLOR

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CLARIFYING THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR EXEMPT EMPLOYEES IN THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; REQUIRING SENATE CONFIRMATION FOR THE CHIEF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER AND EXEMPT EMPLOYEES; SPECIFYING THAT THE CHIEF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER HIRES OR CONTRACTS WITH EMPLOYEES WITH THE GOVERNOR'S CONCURRENCE; AMENDING SECTIONS 2-15-218 AND 2-15-219, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 2-15-218, MCA, is amended to read:

"2-15-218. Office of economic development -- structure. (1) There is an office of economic development within the office of the governor.

(2) The head of the office is the chief business development officer, who must be appointed by the governor and whose appointment is subject to the confirmation of the senate meeting in regular or special session at the time of or following the appointment. Upon appointment and pending confirmation, the chief business development officer has all the powers of the office upon assuming that office, notwithstanding the fact that the senate has not yet confirmed the appointment. If the senate does not confirm the appointment, the governor shall appoint a new chief business development officer subject to this section.

(3) The office of economic development is composed of the following policy and program specialties:

(a) business retention, marketing, and recruitment;

(b) workforce development;

(c) technology development;

(d) infrastructure improvement; and

(e) permitting and regulatory processes.

(4) (a) The office may employ or contract with policy specialists to implement the programs listed in subsection (3) and the functions referred to in 2-15-219.

(b) The office shall provide a job description for each policy specialist employed under this subsection

1 (4), listing qualifications required and duties to be performed.

2 (c) An exempt employee hired under this subsection (4) is subject to confirmation by the senate, but until
3 the senate meets in regular or special session and is able to consider the appointment, the exempt employee may
4 carry out all the functions of the office and has all the responsibilities and privileges of a state employee.

5 (5) The office may accept grants, loans, and other gifts from sources other than the state for the purpose
6 of administering the provisions of 2-15-219, 90-1-112 through 90-1-114, and this section."

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8 **Section 2.** Section 2-15-219, MCA, is amended to read:

9 **"2-15-219. Chief business development officer -- duties.** The chief business development officer
10 shall:

11 (1) advise the governor on policy issues related to economic development;

12 (2) lead the state's business recruitment, retention, and expansion efforts;

13 (3) coordinate the development and distribution of a statewide coordinated strategic economic
14 development plan;

15 (4) coordinate the individual functions and programs within the office as provided in 2-15-218 and hire
16 or contract with policy specialists with the governor's concurrence; and

17 (5) serve as the state's primary liaison between federal, state, and local agencies, Montana tribal
18 governments, private, nonprofit economic development organizations, and the private sector."

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20 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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